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Man in Gun Plot Gets 5 to 15 Years

A conspirator who plotted to sell 10,000 submachine guns to detectives posing as Latin American terrorists was sentenced yesterday to serve 5 to 15 years in prison.

The defendant, George Gregory Korkola, was convicted of conspiring with Frank E. Terpil, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Pleading for mercy, Mr. Korkola told Justice Thomas B. Galligan in State Supreme Court in Manhattan that he believed he was "working for a governmental agency." His lawyer told the judge that letters sent to the court by the Central Intelligence Agency marked "classified" and "secret" gave "credence to this belief."

Mr. Korkala and Mr. Terpil both fled the country before they were to be tried. Both were tried and convicted in absentia in 1981. Mr. Korkala was arrested in 1982 in Spain at a gathering while wearing a name tag. Mr. Terpil is still a fugitive.

Judge Galligan said Mr. Korkola's prosecution "had nothing to do with working for the U.S. Government."